

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A screening and survey selection system, comprising:

a survey queue having a plurality of queue slots, each of said plurality of queue slots including a survey available for a respondent;

a random number generator adapted to generate a number pertaining to a selected one of said plurality of queue slots as a function of at least one characteristic associated with said respondent; and

a screener block question generator adapted to develop a plurality of screener block questions that determine if said respondent is qualified to participate in a survey corresponding to said selected one of said plurality of queue slots.

2. The screening and survey selection system as recited in Claim 1 further comprising an access and control subsystem adapted to determine access rights of said respondent.

3. The screening and survey selection system as recited in Claim 1 further comprising a control database that contains attributes associated with said respondent.

4. The screening and survey selection system as recited in  
Claim 3 wherein said attributes are selected from the group  
consisting of:

a screenname of said respondent,  
a login identification of said respondent,  
category codes for past surveys and completion dates of said  
past surveys taken by said respondent, and  
a last entry date to said screening and survey selection  
system by said respondent.

5. The screening and survey selection system as recited in  
Claim 1 further comprising a master screener adapted to develop  
questions that determine said characteristics.

6. The screening and survey selection system as recited in  
Claim 1 wherein said characteristics are selected from the group  
consisting of:

a zip code of residence of said respondent,  
an age of said respondent,  
a gender and ethnic background of said respondent,  
occupational information and composition of a household of  
said respondent, and  
decision making criteria of said household of said respondent.

7. The screening and survey selection system as recited in  
2 Claim 1 further comprising a quota subsystem adapted to determine  
3 an availability of said survey corresponding to said selected one  
4 of said plurality of queue slots.

8. The screening and survey selection system as recited in  
2 Claim 1 further comprising a survey quota file that contains status  
3 information regarding surveys located in said survey queue.

9. The screening and survey selection system as recited in  
2 Claim 1 further comprising a survey engine adapted to monitor a  
3 number of respondents accessing said screening and survey selection  
4 system.

10. The screening and survey selection system as recited in  
2 Claim 1 further comprising a crediting file that contains benefit  
3 information associated with said respondent.

11. A method of screening and selecting for a survey,  
2 comprising:

3 providing a survey queue having a plurality of queue slots,  
4 each of said plurality of queue slots including a survey available  
5 for a respondent;

6 generating a number pertaining to a selected one of said  
7 plurality of queue slots as a function of at least one  
8 characteristic associated with said respondent; and

9 developing a plurality of screener block questions that  
10 determine if said respondent is qualified to participate in a  
11 survey corresponding to said selected one of said plurality of  
12 queue slots.

12. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising  
2 determining access rights of said respondent.

13. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising  
2 providing a control database that contains attributes associated  
3 with said respondent.

14. The method as recited in Claim 13 wherein said attributes  
2 are selected from the group consisting of:

3 a screenname of said respondent,  
4 a login identification of said respondent,  
5 category codes for past surveys and completion dates of said  
6 past surveys taken by said respondent, and  
7 a last entry date that said respondent attempted to  
8 participate in a survey.

15. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising  
2 developing questions to determine said characteristics.

16. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said  
2 characteristics are selected from the group consisting of:

3 a zip code of residence of said respondent,  
4 an age of said respondent,  
5 a gender and ethnic background of said respondent,  
6 occupational information and composition of a household of  
7 said respondent, and  
8 decision making criteria of said household of said respondent.

17. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising  
2 determining an availability of said survey corresponding to said  
3 selected one of said plurality of queue slots.

18. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising  
2 providing a survey quota file that contains status information  
3 regarding surveys located in said survey queue.

19. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising  
2 monitoring a number of respondents attempting to participate in a  
3 survey.

20. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising  
2 crediting a crediting file that contains benefit information  
3 associated with said respondent.

21. A computer system for effecting a screening and survey selection system over a computer network, comprising:

a database coupled to said computer network and including a survey queue having a plurality of queue slots, each of said plurality of queue slots including a survey available for a respondent; and

a server associated with said database, including:

a random number generator that generates a number pertaining to a selected one of said plurality of queue slots as a function of at least one characteristic associated with said respondent; and

a screener block question generator that develops a plurality of screener block questions that determine if said respondent is qualified to participate in a survey corresponding to said selected one of said plurality of queue slots.

22. The computer system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said server further comprises an access and control subsystem that determines access rights of said respondent.

23. The computer system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said  
2 database further comprises a control database subsystem that  
3 contains attributes associated with said respondent.

24. The computer system as recited in Claim 23 wherein said  
2 attributes are selected from the group consisting of:

3 a screenname of said respondent,  
4 a login identification of said respondent,  
5 category codes for past surveys and completion dates of said  
6 past surveys taken by said respondent, and  
7 a last entry date to said screening and survey selection  
8 system by said respondent.

25. The computer system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said  
2 server further comprises a master screener that develops questions  
3 that determine said characteristics.



26. The computer system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said  
2 characteristics are selected from the group consisting of:

3 a zip code of residence of said respondent,  
4 an age of said respondent,  
5 a gender and ethnic background of said respondent,  
6 occupational information and composition of a household of  
7 said respondent, and  
8 decision making criteria of said household of said respondent.

27. The computer system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said  
2 server further comprises a quota subsystem that determines an  
3 availability of said survey corresponding to said selected one of  
4 said plurality of queue slots.

28. The computer system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said  
2 database further comprising a survey quota file that contains  
3 status information regarding surveys located in said survey queue.

29. The computer system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said  
2 server further comprises a survey engine that monitors a number of  
3 respondents accessing said computer system.

